



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

RIBES COGNATUM **SHINYLEAF GOOSEBERRY**

Shinyleaf Gooseberry is a shrub that is up to 3 m tall. It has slender, erect to arching, straw-colored branches that are short-hairy to bristly with 1-3 straight spines that are up to 1 cm long at each leaf node. The alternate leaves have petioles and broadly oval blades that are 15-40 mm wide with a nearly straight base and a maple-like lobed margin. Foliage is sparsely to densely grayish hairy as well as glandular. Small clusters of 2-3, pendant, short-stalked flowers are borne in the leaf axils. The flowers are 11-16 mm long and have a tubular, sparsely hairy calyx with 5 spreading, white to pinkish lobes. There are 5 short, spoon-shaped whitish petals that are 3-4 mm long and 5 stamens that are ca. as long as the petals. The 2 styles are united and hairy below midlength. The ovary is attached inside the base of the calyx and matures into a round, glabrous, reddish to black berry that is ca. 1 cm long. Flowering in May, fruiting in June.

Distinguished among the spiny-stemmed species of *RIBES* by the combination of having stamens the same length or shorter than the petals, and a hairy, tubular calyx. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.